**Increasing of fertilizer prices**

t l587. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that there is unprecedentd increase in the prices of fertilizer;

if so, the percentage of increase; and

the measures being taken for checking the increase in the prices of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The selling price of fertilizers under the subsidy regime has remained constant for the last 5 years. The selling prices of the subsidized fertilizers are placed at statement I. *(See* below). The international price of fertilizers and fertilizer inputs has increased considerably in the last few years, as can be seen from the details at statement-II *(See* below). The international prices depend upon prevailing demand-supply scenario in the world. The Government has been encouraging the industry to increase indigenous production, especially of urea, to reduce import dependence in the fertilizer sector, which will have some moderating impact on international prices of fertilizers.

***Statement-I***

*Maximum Retails Price of subsidized fertilizers*

(Rupees per MT)

| | |
|---|---|
| Urea | 4830 |
| DAP | 9350 |
| MOP | 4455 |
| 16:20:00 | 7100 |
| 20:20:00 | 7280 |
| 23:23:00 | 8000 |
| 28:28:00 | 9080 |
| 10:26:26 | 8360 |
| 12:32:16 | 8480 |
| 14:28:14 | 8300 |
| 14:35:14 | 8660 |
| 15:15:15 | 6980 |
| 17:17:17 | 8100 |
| 19:19:19 | 8300 |

**† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.**

*Statement-//*

Year/Month *Average International Prices in USD (PMT)*

| | Urea (C&F) | DAP (C&F) | MOP (C&F) | Phos Acid (C&F) | Rock Phosph-ate *(C&F)* | Ammo-nia (C&F) | Sulphur (C&F) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 110 | 183 | 120 | 342 | 56 | 126 | 84 |
| 2003-04 | 156 | 203 | 123 | 356 | 56 | 215 | 84 |
| 2004-05 | 202 | 260 | 180 | 403 | 59 | 244 | 90 |
| 2005-06 | 243 | 290 | 215 | 445 | 80 | 260 | 94 |
| 2006-07 | 257 | 330 | 213 | 464 | 81 | 300 | 76 |
| April'07 | 335 | 505 | 250 | 566 | 79 | 352 | 138 |
| September'07 | 340 | 534 | 280 | 566 | 121 | 263 | 237 |
| February '08 | 410 | 922 | 450 | 1437 | 245 | 485 | 614 |
| % change-April 2007 over 2002-03' | 205% | 176% | 108% | 65% | 41% | 179% | 64% |
| % change-Feb'2008 over April 2007 | 22% | 83% | 80% | 154% | 210% | 38% | 345% |

**Diversion of PDS Grains**

1588. SHRIVUAY J. DARDA:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last three years PDS diversion worth Rs. 31,500 crores has taken place;

(b) if so, whether investigations have been made, culprits booked and exemplary punishments given;

(f) whether the Planning Commission had given any report on this sorry state of affairs;

(g) if so, the findings of this report; and

(h) whether any immediate remedial measures were taken to avoid such recurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. This amount of diversion of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) foodgrains was wrongly mentioned in Press Report in the Times of India dated 17th September, 2007. This Press Report seems to have used some figures of diversion reported in the study conducted